

Appl. No. 10/500,878
Response dated August 15, 2007
Reply to Office Action of July 6, 2007

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REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 10-14 and 16 are cancelled without prejudice to filing one or more divisional applications.

Claims 5-9, 15 and 17-19 are pending. Claims 5, 15, 17 and 19 are amended as indicated below.

35 USC § 112 Rejections

A. Applicant submits that it is clear from the specification and the subject matter therein that the terms "nucleus" and "nuclei" as used in this specification have nothing to do with cells. To expedite prosecution, claims 5 and 17 have been amended for further clarity to recite "atomic nucleus" or "atomic nuclei".

B. Claim 5, step b) has been amended to correct the word "off" by replacing it with " k_{off} ".

C. In respect of claim 8, the preamble of claim 5 on which claim 8 depends has been amended to recite "A method to determine quantitatively the dissociation rate constants (k_{off}) ...". Part b) of claim 5 indicates that more than one k_{off} value can be extracted and recorded. Even when the ligand is a single molecule, multiple numerical k_{off} values can be determined by the method, therefore, it is not inconsistent that multiple k_{off} values can be determined by the method when the ligand is a mixture of polypeptides and/or molecules. In the presently claimed method, a mixture can be considered a single ligand.

D. In claim 15, the abbreviation "CPMG" has been defined as "Carr-Purcell-Meiboom-Gill", which is known in the art.

E. Claim 19 has been amended to recite "molecule" in the singular rather than "molecules" in the plural.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

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35 USC § 101 Rejection

Claim 5, part b) has been amended to recite the step of "extracting and recording K_{off} values". Applicant submits that an output has now been defined and the claim is directed to statutory subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, reconsideration on all claims is respectfully requested. In the event any matters remain to be resolved in view of this communication, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Hans Koenig, Agent for Applicant



Date: August 15, 2007

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